

**Translation**

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2003/002695



**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT**

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 02050/WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/002695	International filing date (day/month/year) 14 March 2003 (14.03.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 15 March 2002 (15.03.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B29D 12/00, B29C 45/00, B60N 2/46		
Applicant JOHNSON CONTROLS INTERIORS GMBH & CO. KG		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>

Date of submission of the demand 10 July 2003 (10.07.2003)	Date of completion of this report 18 June 2004 (18.06.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

national application No.

PCT/EP2003/002695

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-8 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-12 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2-2/2 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

## 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	2, 3, 6, 10-12	YES
	Claims	1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2, 3, 6	YES
	Claims	10-12	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO

**2. Citations and explanations**

US5244251A (document D1) discloses a component composed of a first energy-elastic support structure (12) and an entropy-elastic component (78) integrally joined thereto which seals recesses (50, 58, 60) provided in the support structure (12), the recesses being substantially filled and hence sealed off by the entropy-elastic component (78) (see figure 5).

The subject matter of claim 1 therefore lacks novelty.

A similar component is disclosed in US6343839B (document D2), in which the support structure is in the form of a grid (see figures 18 and 19). The subject matter of claim 4 therefore also lacks novelty.

A component having the features defined in claim 1 and a foam cover layer on one side is known from US5348369A (document D3). The subject matter of claim 5 therefore also lacks novelty.

The component known from D1 is produced by a process similar to that defined in claim 8 (see column 5, lines 17 to 35). The process involves forming a sealing bead (74) that runs around the sides of the support structure (12). The subject matter of claim 9 therefore also lacks novelty.

Claims 10 to 12 describe conventional processes for providing a support structure with a foam layer and a flat decor.

The known prior art does not suggest the idea of sealing off U-shaped recesses containing detent lugs, nor yet the idea of providing a sealing bead to seal a support structure in a foaming tool.